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THE PRESENT DAY DEMAND VOLUNTEERS LOCAL LEADERSHIP

A radio talk by Horace A. Moses, Donor of the Moses Leadership Trophies, West Springfield, Massachusetts, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, December 7, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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Hello, 4-H club members! Three years have gone by since the time in 1932 when I talked to you by radio on an occasion like this. Most folks will remember those as three pretty tough years. But you young folks to whom I am talking today have applied a great deal of your time to a wonderful and useful piece of work. I have frequently told many of my business friends that there have been few things that have given me more real pleasure and satisfaction than my association with the 4-H clubs. You young people have made your club work a going concern of the highest order. There are nearly a hundred thousand more of you striving to fulfill your motto "to make the best better" now than when I spoke to you in 1932. Gains like that in times such as we have had must certainly be the result of merit in your program.

I especially want to congratulate Betty Brown of Lyon County, Kansas, and Viley Johnson of Pittsburgh County, Oklahoma, this year's winners of the Moses Leadership Trophies. I regret very much that it is not possible for me to be in Chicago for your Club Congress. To me the opportunity to meet many of you and to feel that I am in the midst of your activities would, indeed, be a thrill and an inspiration and I am sorry to miss it.

As I recall the story of how the 4-H clubs came to be established, it occurs to me that the people who planned and fostered this work saw in it an extraordinary opportunity to develop leadership among the boys and girls of rural America. Some who do not understand 4-H work perhaps think of it as just a stunt to interest young folks in doing farm and home chores on a sort of competitive scale, the stimulant for which is the winning of a prize of some kind. They miss the point that you 4-H club members do your chores on your own responsibility. And the fact that you assume responsibilities of your own is, in my opinion, the reason that we can look to you for some very worth while leadership.

Some of the first boys and girls to join the 4-H clubs took up the responsibilities of their club work in the South at a time when the cotton boll weevil was giving agriculture in that part of the country quite a licking. These young people shouldered the responsibility of learning and demonstrating some newer and better ways of growing crops and livestock and also ways of canning and using products grown on the farm so that their homes could benefit by the knowledge these young people gained. They did their work well and they helped no little bit in easing the burden which farm homes of the South carried during this period. To them should go the credit for showing us that the 4-H principle -- to learn to do by doing -- is a stepping stone to leadership.

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Business organizations must always be looking for persons who can shoulder responsibilities. It is from my own experiences as a boy growing up on a New York State farm that I learned many of the seemingly little things that your 4-H work is guiding you in finding out for yourselves. Some day you will find, I hope, that these little things are expressed in courage, stability, thrift, resourcefulness and the will to work hard for the things that will make your life work important.

The years we have just been through teach us that American needs volunteers who can lead us further toward these ideals. I can think of no better place to look for this sort of leadership than the 4-H clubs. It isn't just the farming communities that are to benefit by the constructive program of genuine accomplishment which distinguishes the 4-H clubs, but our towns and cities also share in the fruit of your achievements. One of the big lessons of the tough years just behind us is that we all live together in this great country of ours, and that agriculture and industry and commerce and the professions are all interdependent. What you young people are doing to build up the achievements of farming communities is reflected in a better morale and the beginning of a more prosperous condition in town and city as well. Keep your faith in this fine work. America needs more volunteers like you to carry on. Good luck and good cheer to you all.

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